

**ABSTRACT OF THE DISCLOSURE****APPARATUS AND METHOD FOR PROVIDING COLLABORATIVE VOTING  
WHILE MAINTAINING ANONYMITY OF INDIVIDUAL VOTERS**

5

An apparatus and a method for collaborative voting that maintains anonymity of the voters are provided. With the apparatus and method, information regarding voters is compiled into a database and used to generate one or more interfaces through which another voter or potential voter may be informed of the voting patterns of other voters. Through the apparatus and method, the voter or potential voter may select a subject, an individual voter, one or more groups of voters, a geographical voter area, voting information for various times, and the like. In response to such a selection, voting information for the corresponding selection is provided to the voter. In addition, the apparatus and method may provide an interface through which a voter may enter a comment or the like. The entered comments may then be viewed by other voters or potential voters when the submitter of the comment is selected or is part of a group of voters falling within a category selected by a voter or potential voter. As a further feature of the present invention, the voter's vote may be held in a non-final state during a predetermined period. During this predetermined period, the voter may view the voting information described above and either decide to change his/her vote or leave his/her vote as it was entered.